

(Clean copy of amended claims)

D1  
1. (Four times amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:  
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof; and  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, and attached to an  
upper surface of the slide board via a connecting assembly made of substantially non-  
compressible and relatively rigid material; and  
the connecting assembly retaining the slide board and step board in a fixed, substantially  
parallel and spaced relationship in the immediate vicinity of the connecting assembly during use  
of the snowboard.

2. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly is provided  
in a substantially middle part of the slide board.

D2  
7. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein said connecting assembly comprises  
a plurality of connecting members formed of a substantially rigid material and fixed between the  
slide board and the step board.

D3  
9. (Thrice amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:  
an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof; and  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, and attached to an  
upper surface of the slide board via a connecting assembly, made of substantially non-  
compressible and relatively rigid material such that the slide and step boards remain in a fixed,  
substantially parallel and spaced relationship in the immediate vicinity of the connecting  
assembly during use of the snowboard.

E  
D4  
10. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 9, wherein the connecting assembly includes a  
connecting member formed of relatively rigid material and extending between the slide board  
and the step board.

D4  
16  
13. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 9, wherein the connecting assembly is  
provided in a substantially middle part of the slide board.

D5  
9  
15. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly maintains  
a substantially fixed height during use of the snowboard.

10.  
16. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 1, wherein the connecting assembly includes at least two connecting members spaced laterally apart from each other.

18. (Twice amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:

an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof;  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof; and  
a connecting assembly made of substantially non-compressible material connecting the step board to an upper surface of the slide board so as to substantially prohibit relative movement between the boards ~~in the immediate vicinity of the connecting assembly~~ during use of the snowboard.

19. (Amended) A snowboard for sliding over snow, comprising:

an elongated slide board having a slide surface on a lower surface thereof;  
an elongated step board defining a deck on an upper surface thereof, the step board being appreciably greater in both length and width than the slide board; and  
a connecting assembly made of substantially non-compressible material connecting the step board to an upper surface of the slide board to allow a substantially increased leverage for the user in controlling the slide board.

20. (Amended) A snowboard according to claim 19, wherein the connecting assembly retains the slide board and step board in a fixed, substantially parallel and spaced relationship during use of the snowboard.

New Claim 21

21. (New) A snowboard according to claim 18, wherein the connecting assembly is made of substantially non-compressible and relatively rigid material.